REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed November 28, 2006. The Examiner's comments in that Action have been carefully considered.

It is requested that the due date for submission of a response to this Action be reset from February 28, 2006, to May 30, 2006. It is also requested that the full amount due for the three month extension fee (Large Entity) -- $1,020.00 – be charged to our deposit account 10-0100.

It is noted that the Examiner has accepted the drawings filed on May 25, 2000, and has acknowledged the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C.§ 119(a)-(d) or (f). The Examiner also acknowledges the filing of a Request for Continued Examination application with the appropriate concomitant fees and the finality of the previous Office Action has been withdrawn. In addition, applicant's previous Amendment has been entered.

Claims 1-11 are canceled. The Examiner has rejected all of the pending claims, namely, claims 12-16, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,878,780 to Liu et al., the Examiner taking the position that the claims cited recites elements, functions or features all of which are fully disclosed in the Liu et al. reference. As discussed more thoroughly below, applicant traverses the Examiner's rejection on the basis of anticipation and requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim 12 of the present invention teaches a network system comprising: (1) individual service provider devices (14A, 14B, 14C), each having a first authentication server (22) and access point terminals (20A, 20B, 20C) for connecting user terminals (50, 52) of contracted users of at least one of the individual service provider devices to a network; and (2) a parallel service provider device (16) connected to the individual service provider devices (14A, 14B, 14C), the parallel service provider device having a roaming contract with the individual service provider

devices and including a second authentication server (32) and no access point terminal.

Although the Examiner states that Liu et al. '780 teaches a parallel service provider device (16) connected to the individual service provider devices (14A, 14B, 14C), the parallel service provider device having a roaming contract with the individual service provider devices and including a second authentication server (32) and no access point terminal (column 4, lines 5-61), Liu et al. does not teach an Internet service provider (ISP0 without an access point.

As described in the Abstract of the Disclosure, Liu et al. teaches a method and apparatus for allowing a user to access the Internet from a remote location by using a local Internet service provider with whom the user does not have any account. The reference merely teaches that a local (also called foreign) internet service provider is an internet service provider with whom the user does not have an account. The internet service provider (ISP) with whom the user does have an account is referred to as the home internet service provider (home ISP) (see column 1, lines 12-17). The home ISP 64 and the local ISP 63 are connected via an internet connection 65, as shown in Fig. 3. This means that the home ISP 64 and the local ISP 63 have an access point, thus distinguishing the reference from the subject application. It is respectfully submitted that the reference to Liu always requires an ISP with an access point.

The access point of the present invention, in contrast, is a terminal for connecting user terminals (50, 52) of contracted users of at least one of the ISP devices to a network, such as 4A and 4B in Fig. 1 and 20A and 20B in Fig. 3. Fig. 3 in Liu et al. shows that both the home ISP 64 and the local ISP 63 are connected to the Internet 65 without another ISP connection. Thus, in Liu et al., the home ISP 64 and the local ISP 63 inherently have an access point. Furthermore, although the prior art Internet system shown in Fig. 1 of the subject application teaches providers 6A and 6B with connections via the access points 4A and 4B and providers 6A and 6B with

connections via the access points 4A and 4B, the parallel provider of the present invention, shown in Fig. 3, does not have an access point so that it is connected to the Internet via an access point of other ISPs 14. This is not taught by Liu et al., and distinguishes the present invention from the prior art reference and makes any full anticipation impossible.

Furthermore, Fig. 5 merely illustrates a centralized remote internet access system 120 that includes a dialer 124, a local network access server 128, a local authentication server 132, a first routing server 136, a second routing server 138 and a home authentication server 140. The second routing server 138 is an optional component. Fig. 6 illustrates the way the server 136 functions in the system 120. The user 144 connects to the system 120 via the dialer 124 and transmits login information as was described previously with respect to Fig. 4. At block 150, the network server 128 issues a request to authenticated the login information. At block 154, the server 132 determines whether or not the login information contains a "roaming" designation such as the "@" character followed by additional user information. If roaming information is detected, the server 132 queries the login information to the routing server 136 as indicated by block 158.

Block 162 indicates that the server 136 includes software that attempts to match the "roaming" login information with an entry in a log table in the server 136. If the server 136 can make a match, then at block 166 the server 136 returns information to the server 132 that includes an IP address for a server that has the domain name contained in the login information provided by the user 144. The server 132 then sends an authentication request containing the user's name and password to the server 140. The server 140 checks this information and, at block 170, transmits a message to the server 132 either stating that the user 144 should be granted or denied internet access (column 4, lines 5-61).

Thus, there is no service provider device that has no access point terminal in the reference

to Liu et al., and therefore that reference cannot anticipate the subject application.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that this application is now in condition for

allowance. Early allowance and issuance is, accordingly, respectfully solicited.

Applicant hereby petitions that any and all extensions of time of the term necessary to render this response timely be granted. COSTS FOR SUCH EXTENSION(S) AND/OR ANY OTHER FEE DUE WITH THIS FEE DUE WITH THIS PAPER THAT ARE NOT FULLY COVERED BY AN ENCLOSED CHECK MAY BE CHARGED TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT #10-0100.
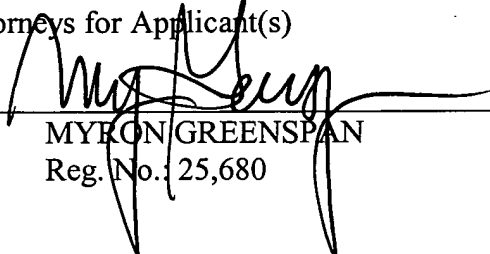
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Respectfully submitted,

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